

instead of only mounting it, as in the example shown, from the end of the half-shaft 2 on which the associated drive wheel is keyed.

5 The sleeve 15 in question, which is housed inside the casing 8, has connected to it means - generically illustrated in the drawings and indicated by the reference number 16 - which, when actuated, cause it to slide in both the directions A, B, along the splined coupling 22, causing engagement between the said grooves 12i, 13i or disengagement thereof, and consequently rotationally lock or release the box 4 with/from the half-shaft 2 which, as mentioned, is in turn rotationally locked to the sleeve 15.

10 As shown in fig. 1, a flat (i.e. not grooved) portion 25 of the sleeve 15 rests coaxially on the grooves 12i of the said cylindrical extension 1s, or, more generally speaking, on this latter.

15 The said means 16 which perform the abovementioned function may be of widely varying types and preferably arranged inside the casing 8. They may consist, for example, of an electromagnet which can be excited externally and coupled to a resilient element which, upon deactivation of the electromagnet, causing engagement between the grooves 12i, 13i, brings the sleeve 15 back into its initial position, with the said grooves 12i, 13i disengaged from each other and with the differential operating normally without the locking action performed by the sleeve 15 (the component parts of this solution are not shown in detail).

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25 In order to allow extraction of the casing 8 from the half-shaft 2 (arrow C, Figure 1) on which the sleeve 15 is mounted, without removal of the latter, the inventor has envisaged supporting the sleeve 15 by means of a fork member 18 with a substantially semi-circular shape (see also Figure 2 in this connection) which engages in a complementary manner with an annular slot 17 formed in the said sleeve and is also contained inside the casing 8 to which it is integrally fastened by means of two diametrically opposite projecting parts

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19, 20 which pass through it and emerge on the outside thereof.

In order to allow removal of the fork member 18 and the sleeve 15 which is supported by it when the